

VISUAL ANTI-VIRUS IN A NETWORK CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 To detect a potential virus-infected control script in a networking system, visual
representations of control structures and operations effected by a suspect script are presented to a
user. A visual representation of the control links that are contained within the suspect script is
presented to the user, preferably in a manner such that inappropriate links and/or device states
are easily recognized. To further assist in the identification of potential aberrant behavior, a
10 manual or automated simulation process allows the user to visually observe the changes of state
of appliances in response to control stimuli, based on the instructions contained in the suspect
script. In addition to facilitating an identification of a virus-infected script, the visual
representation of the control structure of the network described by the script, and the simulation
or emulation of this control structure, also facilitates the development and de-bugging of well-
15 mannered control scripts, particularly in a home or office networking system. A third-party
provider may provide the visual representation and/or the simulation process, in return for
information regarding the inventory of equipment at the user's site, to facilitate marketing
opportunities.